

VIOLA DA GAMBIA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 30, No. 8, May 2015

Pacifica Play Day, 5-9-2015

Please join us for the eighth Play Day of our 2014-2015 season on Saturday, May 9th at Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church, 1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The Church's website is hillsideswedenborg.org . We will meet in the Sanctuary. Please try to arrive by 9:00 am for coffee/tea and conversation until about 9:15, to be followed by morning playing events beginning at 9:30 until lunch around 12:30. After lunch, there will be an uncoached afternoon playing session until about 3:00 pm.



We are extremely pleased to have Frances Blaker coaching us for this play day. The theme for her group coaching presentation will be as follows. A morning of musical delights from the English late renaissance: a meaty fantasy by Okeover and a lush madrigal by Wilbye .

John Wilbye was perhaps the most famous of the English madrigal composers, and almost all of his surviving compositions are madrigals. He was sensitive and imaginative in his writing, with a beautiful sense of musical line and lovely harmonies.

The viol fantasia is a very close musical cousin to the madrigal, moving from theme to theme, showing a variety of moods within each piece. John Okeover (c. 1590 – 1663) was an English organist and composer, who probably composed his 7 five-part viol fantasies during the Commonwealth. Peter Ballinger has published this set of fantasies.

Frances is honored to have been invited to lead the VdGS-Pacifica for this play day on May 9th, and looks forward to discussing the finer points of the two lovely compositions we will play as the whole group works together. Coaching small viol consorts is also right up her alley. Known for her vibrant and inspiring way with musicians of all levels, from rank beginner to fully fledged professional, Frances will bring all of her musical experience to bare as VdGS-Pacifica players work together at our Saturday Play Day.

Many of you will have worked before with Frances Blaker, that viol player in recorder player's clothing. Loving the music written for viols, and the heavenly variety of tonal possibilities of that instrument, she even went so far as to take viol lessons while at music conservatory. If it hadn't been for the fact that, after carrying the heavy conservatory viol case down 5 flights of stairs in one building and then up another 5 flights to her teacher's apartment in Copenhagen (she would always arrive for lessons with truly quivering arms) she might have become a viol pro! The recorder is much easier to carry about town (oh, and is also a magnificent instrument).

Frances Blaker studied recorder at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, where she worked with Eva Legene, Marion Verbruggen and many other masters of the recorder, and earned Music Pedagogical and Performance degrees. She has taught recorder and early music subjects all over the U. S. and performs with Ensemble Vermillian, Farallon Recorder Quartet, Calextone and other groups. She is currently the director of the Amherst Early Music Festival. She is conductor of the Bay Area Baroque Orchestra and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra.

Our early morning play day session will be followed by (mostly one-on-a-part) consort playing sessions in assigned groups using Pacifica Library music selected by each group until about 12:30 pm. Coaching will be provided by Frances on a time-shared basis depending on how many groups we have. If you can, please plan to stay for uncoached consort playing in the afternoon after lunch, beginning about 1:00 pm until about 3:00 pm.

Please respond to Dalton Cantey, if you plan to attend the morning and/or afternoon sessions. For the morning sessions, tell him what size gamba(s) you will bring. If you would prefer to double a part in our normal "one on a part" consort playing please indicate that. Please respond before Friday (May 8th) at about 4:00 PM to expedite formation of assigned groups for the following Saturday morning. Note that merely replying to this email will not deliver an email to Dalton. Use this email address – dcantey@att.net - to send him a message.

Date Change for Our Annual Party and Playing for Each Other On Saturday June 6th!

Our date for the Pacifica Annual Party and Playing for Each Other Event ("the Bash") has changed from the second Saturday in June (June 13th) to the first Saturday (June 6th) because of Hillside Church scheduling conflicts. This will be an uncoached play day event where we usually have a pot-luck lunch to be enjoyed by all while we play for each other in preformed groups. If you and/or your group would like to perform for us at this event, please send an email to Ricardo Hofer (hofer52@gmail.com) with the names of people in your group, the name and composer of the piece or pieces that you will play and the approximate duration of your performance so that we can set-up a program for the event. There will be time to rehearse your piece(s) in the morning in the downstairs classrooms before we start the performance presentations and lunch event around noon-time.

Play Day Dates and Coaches Are Completed for Pacifica's 2014 – 2015 Season

Many thanks once again to Alexandra Saur for setting up our great play day coaching line-up for the 2014-2015 season, please do a final update on your calendars now!

September 13	Shira Kammen	.
October 11	Hallifax and Jeffrey	.
November 8	Roy Whelden	.
December 13	David Morris	.
January 10	Elisabeth Reed	.
February 21	Stanford Workshop with John Dornenburg and others	.
March 14	Tobi Szuts and Brady Lanier/Quaver	.
April 11	Marie Szuts	.
May 9	Frances Blaker	.
June 6	Pacifica Chapter Concert for Friends/Family	.

Concert Planned As a Tribute to Margriet Tindemans, Sunday, May 17, 2015, 7 PM in Seattle, WA, Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall, 200 University Street, Seattle WA



Registration is Now Open for the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS) Workshops in June and July 2015

Visit www.sfems.org for more information and to register online.

Registration is Now Open for the Port Townsend Early Music Workshop, July 5-11 2015 in Tacoma, Washington

Visit www.seattle-recorder.org/workshop for more information and to register online.

Early Music Festival Planned for the East Bay During First Week in June

An early music festival is being organized by Barbara Blaker Krumdieck in the East Bay during the first week of June. Barbara, a baroque cellist, is from Berkeley, and most of her family (including her sister, eminent recorder player Frances Blaker) live in Berkeley. Barbara has lived for close to 20 years in Davidson, North Carolina. Her daughter Grace passed away in late December 2013 at the age of 15, from complications due to a neurologic condition called Rett Syndrome. Grace was very much loved by everyone who knew her, including many of us in the early music community, and Barbara has organized a little festival of early music concerts in honor of Grace. It's called, simply enough, Early Music for Grace, and features three concerts per day between Monday, June 1 and Friday, June 5. With one exception, all concerts are being held in the sanctuary of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany, California, and with one exception all the groups who are performing are based in the Bay Area.

A Facebook page has been set-up as a clearing house for information about the festival, including a schedule of events, list of performers, a note about the festival from Barbara, and an "event" page for each concert; please see <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Early-Music-for-Grace/1375309422792818>. The site will be updated as more details about each program come in from the performers. St. Alban's Episcopal Church has generously volunteered to co-sponsor the festival, with the family of Grace Ann Krumdieck. We think this festival will be a very special event, and I must say the list of performers is pretty impressive.

Please Register Now for the Great Viols West 2015 Week-long Workshop in San Luis Obispo, August 9-15, 2015!

The Viols West 2015 brochure and Registration Forms are now available. Please see files attached to this email. We have a wonderful faculty this year and many exciting class choices. Please let Melita Denny know at violswestworkshop@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to receive a paper copy of either brochure or registration form. We hope to see all of you in August!

Pacifica Chapter Contacts:

Pacifica Chapter Website: <http://pacificaviols.org>, President: Dalton Cantey dcantey@att.net, Vice President: Ricardo Hofer hofer52@gmail.com, Secretaries: Carolyn Butler sparkyb@sonic.net, and Betsy St. Aubin betsy.st.aubin@gmail.com, Treasurer and membership list coordinator: Ellen Fisher erfisher@gmail.com, President Emerita: Ellen Farwell Leonardfarwell@comcast.net, Rental Coordinator: Lynn Lipetzky lynnlipetzky@sbcglobal.net, VdGSA Chapter Representative: Lee McRae leemcrae1@gmail.com, Coaching Liaison and Webmaster: Alexandra Saur alexandra@alexandrasaur.com, Email News Editor and Play Day Consort Coordinator: Dalton Cantey dcantey@att.net.